

## **CHAPTER 4. SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT**

### **SUBCHAPTER 3. ELIGIBLE LISTS**

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#### **4A:4-3.1 Types of eligible lists**

(a) The Commissioner may establish the following types of eligible lists:

1. Open competitive, which shall include all qualified eligibles following examination procedures.
2. Promotional, which shall include permanent employees who meet qualification requirements.
3. Regular reemployment, which shall include former permanent employees who resigned in good standing, retired, or were voluntarily demoted, who timely request reemployment and whose reemployment is certified by the appointing authority as being in the best interests of the service;
4. Police or fire reemployment, which shall include former permanent uniformed members of a police or fire department who resigned in good standing and whose reemployment is certified by the appointing authority as being in the best interests of the service; and
5. Special reemployment, which shall include former and current permanent employees who were laid off, laterally displaced or demoted in lieu of layoff.

#### **4A:4-3.2 Order of names on eligible lists**

(a) The order of names on an open competitive list shall be as follows:

1. When an announcement is open to more than one local jurisdiction, the resulting list of eligibles shall be separated into sub-lists by the residency requirements as provided by applicable law and ordinance.

2. Within each sub-list as provided in (a)1 above, the order of names shall be:

- i. Eligibles entitled to disabled veterans preference in order of their scores;
- ii. Eligibles entitled to veterans preference in order of their scores; and
- iii. Non-veteran eligibles in order of their scores.

3. Eligibles who receive the same score shall have the same rank. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-4.2(c).

4. See N.J.A.C. 4A:5-21 for examples on use of open competitive list.

(b) Eligibles on a promotional list shall appear in the order of their scores.

1. When scores are tied, veterans shall be listed first within each rank. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-4.2(c).

2. See N.J.A.C. 4A:5-2.2 for examples on use of a promotional list.

(c) Eligibles on special reemployment lists shall be ranked in descending order of the class code or class level of the title from which the eligible was displaced. Within each class code or class level, eligibles shall be ranked in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.3(c)1.

EXAMPLE: Emily is a State employee, and was displaced in the layoff process from her permanent title of Administrative Analyst 1, which has a class code of 29. She has a total of 10 years of seniority. George is also a State employee, and was displaced in the layoff process from his permanent title of Administrative Analyst 2, which has a class code of 26. He has a total of 15 years of seniority. The names of both Emily and George are placed on the special reemployment list for the title of Administrative Analyst 3, since it is a lower, related title. Emily's name will be listed first, because the class code of the title from which she was displaced is higher than the class code of the title from which George was displaced.

EXAMPLE: Robert, a municipal employee, was displaced in the layoff process from his permanent title of Supervising Maintenance Repairer, the highest class level title in his title series. He has 15 years of service with the municipality. Angela, who was permanent in the title of Assistant Supervising Maintenance Repairer when she was displaced in the layoff process, has 16 and one-half years of service with the municipality. The names of both Robert and Angela will be placed at the head of special

reemployment lists for Senior Maintenance Repairer and Maintenance Repairer. On both of these lists, Robert's name will appear first and Angela's second, since Robert was displaced from a higher class level title.

(d) Eligibles on regular or police and fire reemployment lists shall be ranked in the order of seniority in the permanent title from which they resigned, retired or were voluntarily demoted, with the name of the person with the greatest seniority appearing first on the list.

(e) It shall be the responsibility of an eligible to keep a current address on file with the Department of Personnel.

#### **4A:4-3.3 Duration and cancellation of eligible lists**

(a) Open competitive and promotional lists shall be promulgated for three years from the date of their establishment, unless the Commissioner determines that, under the circumstances, a shorter time period is appropriate.

1. An eligible list may, for good cause, be extended by the Commissioner prior to its expiration date, except that no list shall have a duration of more than four years.

2. The name of any employee shall not remain on a regular reemployment list for more than three years from the date of resignation, except as provided in (a)1 above.

3. Special reemployment, police reemployment and fire reemployment lists shall have unlimited durations.

(b) The Commissioner may, in cases of fraud, illegality, test invalidity, error by the Department or other good cause, cancel an eligible list prior to its expiration date by issuing an order, which shall provide a means for the notification of eligibles. The Commissioner shall also provide a copy of this order to affected appointing authorities.

(c) See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-4.9 for appointments after the expiration date of the eligible list.

#### **4A:4-3.4 Revival of eligible lists**

(a) The Commissioner may revive an expired eligible list under the following circumstances:

1. To implement a court order, in a suit filed prior to the expiration of the list;

2. To implement an order of the Commissioner or Board in an appeal or proceeding instituted during the life of the list;
3. To correct an administrative error;
4. To effect the appointment of an eligible whose working test period was terminated by a layoff; or
5. For other good cause.

#### **4A:4-3.5 Consolidation of eligible lists**

(a) The Commissioner may consolidate successive eligible lists for a given title which result from successive open competitive or promotional examinations by one or more of the following methods:

1. Placing the first name on the later list after the last name of the prior list;
  2. Supplementing an incomplete list with an eligible list for an appropriate title;
- or
3. Combining of names of eligibles by scores.

(b) When eligible lists are consolidated, the part of the eligible list which was promulgated first shall not continue beyond its expiration date.

#### **4A:4-3.6 Additions to eligible lists**

(a) The Commissioner may add names to an eligible list at any time during the life of the list under the following circumstances:

1. A make-up examination has been given and a candidate has received a passing score;
2. To correct an error by the Department of Personnel;
3. To implement an appeal decision; or
4. Where a third party, such as a college or the Veterans Administration, has submitted documents to correct an administrative error.

(b) When the name of an eligible is added to an existing list to correct an error made by the Department of Personnel, the Department shall determine the retroactive

certification and/or appointment rights. When the name of an eligible is added to an existing list for any other reason, the Commissioner shall determine the effect of the action on certifications and prior permanent appointments. See also N.J.A.C. 4A:4-1.4 for conditional regular appointments.

#### **4A:4-3.7 Priority of eligible lists**

(a) When there is more than one current eligible list for a title, the priority of the lists shall be as follows:

1. Special reemployment, when the available position/title is in the department or autonomous agency from which the eligible was laid off, laterally displaced or demoted in lieu of layoff;

2. Promotional;

3. Special reemployment, when the available position/title is located in a department or autonomous agency other than that from which the eligible was laid off, laterally displaced or demoted in lieu of layoff;

4. Regular reemployment, police or fire reemployment; and

5. Open competitive.

(b) Reinstatement of a permanent employee following disability retirement shall have priority over appointment from any eligible list, except a special reemployment list. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.12.

(c) The existence of an open competitive or promotional list in a jurisdiction receiving an employee in an intergovernmental transfer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.1A shall not be a bar to such transfer.

(d) Reemployment of certain law enforcement officers and firefighters pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.9 and 4A:4-3.10 shall have priority over appointment from any eligible list, except a special reemployment list.

(e) For purposes of this section, an autonomous agency in local service is one which, by statute, is a body corporate and has the powers of an appointing authority. In State service, an autonomous agency is one which, by law, is in but not under the supervision of a principal department.

#### **4A:4-3.8 Correction of errors**

(a) The Department may correct an error at any time during the life of an eligible list.

(b) The Commissioner shall determine whether such correction shall affect any prior appointments or certifications.

(c) Corrections of errors may result in a change in ranking. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.6.

#### **4A:4-3.9 Reemployment program for certain law enforcement officers and firefighters**

(a) A municipality or a county which has established a police department as described in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-180 may appoint any person to an entry level title in the police department who has:

1. Served as a law enforcement officer, other than a special law enforcement officer or seasonal law enforcement officer, in good standing in any State, county or municipal law enforcement department or agency;

2. In the case of service with the State, or a county or municipality operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, satisfactorily completed a working test period in a law enforcement title;

3. In the case of service with a county or municipality not operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, satisfactorily completed a comparable, documented probationary period in law enforcement title; and

4. For reasons of economy, efficiency or other related reasons, was laid off, or demoted from a law enforcement title to a non law enforcement title, within 60 months prior to the appointment permitted in (a) above.

(b) A municipality which has established a fire department as described in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-9.9, or a fire district established in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70, may appoint any person to an entry level firefighter title who has:

1. Served as an officer or member, other than a temporary or seasonal officer or member, in good standing, in any fire department or fire district, or as a civilian Federal firefighter in good standing at any Federal military installation in New Jersey;

2. In the case of service with a fire department in a municipality or a fire district operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, satisfactorily completed a working test period;

3. In the case of service with a fire department in a municipality or a fire district not operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, satisfactorily completed a comparable, documented probationary period;

4. In the case of service as a civilian Federal firefighter, satisfactorily completed such firefighter training as is required for employment as a civilian Federal firefighter;

5. Except in the case of civilian Federal firefighters, for reasons of economy, efficiency or other related reasons, was laid off, or demoted from a firefighter title to a non-firefighter title, within 36 months prior to the appointment permitted in (b) above; and

6. As a consequence of the closure of a Federal military installation in New Jersey, been terminated as a civilian Federal firefighter within 48 months prior to the appointment permitted in (b) above.

#### **4A:4-3.10 Procedures for reemployment program for certain law enforcement officers and firefighters**

(a) A municipality, county or fire district interested in making an appointment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.9 (hereafter "program") may contact the Department of Personnel for a list of persons compiled as follows:

1. Those persons laid off or demoted as provided in the program from a law enforcement title to a non-law enforcement title in the case of service with a police department;

2. Those persons laid off or demoted as provided in the program from a firefighter title to a non-firefighter title in the case of service with a fire department in a municipality or a fire district; or

3. Those persons terminated as a civilian Federal firefighter as provided in the program.

(b) A person who would like to be placed on a list of persons as indicated in (a) above may contact the Department of Personnel to apply for inclusion on a list.

1. Placement on a list of persons terminated as a civilian Federal firefighter as provided in the program shall be determined based on the person's length of service as a civilian Federal firefighter.

(c) In selecting a person from the list, the municipality, county or fire district shall verify and certify to the Department of Personnel the eligibility of the person for appointment pursuant to this program.

1. A municipality or fire district interested in making an appointment under this program shall give first preference in making an appointment to residents of the municipality and second preference to residents of the county not residing in the municipality.

2. A county interested in making an appointment under N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.9(a) shall give first preference in making an appointment to residents of the county.

(d) An appointment made under this program:

1. Shall be reported to the Department of Personnel;

2. Shall have priority over open competitive and promotional eligible lists and regular reemployment lists, but no such appointment shall be made if a special reemployment list exists for the title in the municipality, county or fire district interested in making the appointment;

3. Shall be made without regard to seniority, age, veteran's status or the municipality, county or fire district from which a person was laid off or demoted;

4. Shall not be subject to a working test period; and

5. Shall not be made to a title other than an entry level title without Department of Personnel approval.

(e) A person appointed under this program:

1. May not be appointed a second time under this program unless the person is again laid off or demoted for reasons of economy, efficiency or other related reasons;

2. Shall begin to accrue seniority as of the effective date of the new appointment;

3. Shall not retain any superior rank held in the municipality, county or fire district from which the person was laid off or demoted; and

4. Shall not be removed from the special reemployment list for the jurisdiction from which the person was laid off.